

## ATTAINING THE NATIONAL SPORTS FESTIVAL OBJECTIVES IN DELTA AND ONDO STATES: FUNDING AS A PANACEA

EMMANUEL AKARAH<sup>1</sup>, JOSEPHINE EJOBEH<sup>1</sup> & FAVOUR OKAGBARE TAYIRE<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Human Kinetics and Health Education, Faculty of Education,

Delta State University, Abraka, Nigeria

<sup>2</sup>Department of Human Kinetics and Health Education, College of Physical Education,

Mosogar, Delta State, Nigeria

### ABSTRACT

*The National Sports Festival which started in 1973, had three main objectives; to promote mass participation in amateur sports from the village level to the national level in all the states of the Federal Republic of Nigeria with a view to discovering talents; encourage the organization of amateur sports competitions throughout the country in order to raise the standard of performance of Nigerian athletes and; promote and strengthen friendship among the athletes throughout the federation with overall essence of enhancing national sports development and contributing immensely to the national economy. The descriptive survey research design is used for the study with a population of one thousand, one hundred and eighteen (1,118) comprised of coaches, teachers, athletes and organizing secretaries in Delta and Ondo States from which a sample size of two hundred and eighty-five (285) was obtained through the stratified random sampling technique. A forty five (45) item self structured questionnaire scaled on a modified four (4) point Likert type rating of Very High (VH 4) to Very Low (VL 1) which reliability index (r) of 0.75 was established with the Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Co-efficient with face and content validity ascertained by three experts in the Human Kinetics and Health Education Department of the Delta State University, Abraka was used to generate data tested using multiple regression statistics at 0.05 alpha level. The results revealed that there is a significant relationship between the funding of sports and the attainment of the National Sports Festival objectives. It was recommended that the governments of Delta and Ondo States should through proper funding, create avenues for participation in grassroots sports with a view to ensuring the identification and training of talented and budding athletes to represent the States, whilst the sports ministry and school administrators should expend the funds provided by government for procuring necessary sports materials needed for training and re-training of athletes to facilitate their participation in the National Sports Festival towards the attainment of the sports festival objectives.*

**KEYWORDS:** National Sports Festival Objectives, Funding, Sports Equipment, Sports Facilities, Athletes & Grassroots Sports

**Received:** Feb 11, 2019; **Accepted:** Mar 01, 2019; **Published:** Apr 23, 2019; **Paper Id.:** IJESRJUN20193

### INTRODUCTION

Sports are organized competitive physical activities in which the outcomes are determined by strategies, physical activities, and skills guided by established rules and regulations (Udomiaye, 2013). They are in fact, very important to a nation's culture as they permeate society, influence both institutions and individuals in a multiplicity of ways and have acted as symbols of national unity and cohesion. Omoruan and Eboh (2015), espoused that the National Sports Festival which started in 1973, had three main objectives; to promote mass participation in amateur

sports from the village level to the national level in all the states of the Federal Republic of Nigeria with a view to discovering talents; to encourage the organization of amateur sports competitions throughout the country in order to raise the standard of performance of Nigerian sportsmen and sportswomen and; to promote and strengthen friendship among the sportsmen and sportswomen throughout the federation. The overall essence of the National Sports Festival would be enhancing national sports development and contributing immensely to the national economy. Talents discovered at the festivals were afterward invited to sports camps where they received intensive coaching and thereafter, had opportunities to represent the country at international sports competitions.

Funding of sports is the basic foundation on which other requirements for sports development are laid. The adequacy or inadequacy of funds will to a very large extent determine the magnitude of success of any sports policy. One of the most crucial inputs of sports development is funding. Adequate funding must be procured, programmes and budget planned and implemented and accountability for funds established. Funding is extremely expedient in hosting a large measure of the development of sports in different institutions and local government Areas. Funding is one of the inputs which the success or failure of sports depends on. It is a powerful determinant of what should be included in schools and local government areas. The federal government sports development policy (1989) states that the government would be primarily responsible for funding the sports development sector with the responsibility discharged through regular budgetary programmes.

Sports is directly or indirectly one of the biggest sources of employment and has a virtually unlimited scope of business in Delta and Ondo states. The services which the National Sports Festival provide whether human resources, facilities, competition management or purchase of equipment, camping, and preparation of athletes, usually involve generating and disbursing funds. These monies must be secured from appropriate sources, be expended for approved and proper purposes and be accounted for the item by item. Financial management and control have become increasingly important responsibilities for sports management in Delta and Ondo states because of current problems, issues, and constraints.

Some of the major purposes of financial management according to Bucher and Krotee (2002) are as follows.

- To use the fund to develop high-quality sports programme.
- To ensure that funds allocated are used to develop the specific sport programme.
- To prevent misuse and waste of taxpayers' funds that have been allocated to sports.
- To exercise control over the process of financial management to guarantee that the entire financial process has integrity and purpose.
- To make the greatest use of human and physical resources, supplies, equipment and other forms of assets and capital involved in accomplishing organization of sports programmes in as much as funds will be needed for sports programmes operations, facility development, maintenance, procurement, administrative development, and miscellaneous costs.

According to Gerrald (2004), sports finance is crucial to all forms of the sports organization, since they have set objectives. It is needed to construct facilities, purchase equipment, and supplies, pay allowances to athletes and officials and a host of other things that are vital to a successful competition. Tayire (2012) noted that funding no doubt is the

fulcrum on which other prerequisites for sports development rest. She further elucidated that the sufficiency or insufficiency of funds will to a very large extent determine the degree of success and development of any sports policy. Funding of sports is extremely expedient in hosting a large measure of development in school sports at the Grassroots. For instance, inter-house athletics sports competitions which the primary and secondary schools usually host yearly to scout for stars to represent their local government areas has almost disappeared because of the cost of hosting.

It would be significant to state that the successful implementation of the objectives of the National Sports Festival is contingent upon the amount available and its judicious utilization for the purpose it was designed. According to Osaretin (2012), the biggest argument against the non-attainment of the National sports festivals objectives is the waste of funds that it entails. It may be true that the government of Delta and Ondo states may not bring out the extra funds they dish out for the festivals if there were no festivals, yet the funds spent on intangibles, accommodations, feeding, ceremonies, publicity, etc. for the festival could be used more profitably. Vision (2010) specifically highlighted the following; one striking aspect of Nigeria's growing reputation in the world today is her remarkable but isolated success in the international sporting competitions. It is also true that Nigeria's vast potential in organized sports is still largely undeveloped. This is not unconnected with the poor and declining state of sports infrastructure and facilities, poor funding and administration problems. It has been obviously identified therefore that, facilities and infrastructures which are very crucial to the development of a healthy sports sector that will create a good avenue for achieving the objectives of the National Sports Festival are lacking and where available, they are in deplorable conditions (vision 2010).

Gerrald (2004) also noted that sports finance is needed to construct facilities, purchase equipment, and supplies as well as pay allowances. There is no doubt that the major factors militating against the attainment of the National Sports Festival objectives in Delta and Ondo States are hinged on the provision of funds to provide facilities, equipment, supplies, and personnel. Aluko (2005) exposed that finances are the engine that drives the total process of sports management, administration and development in light of the facts that, the services that a programme provides whether human resources, facilities, equipment, competition management, usually involve huge sums of funds. Thus, a cut in funds would affect the growth and attainment of the National Sports Festival objectives. Fasan (1997), Morakinyo (2000) Aluko (2005) and the vision 2010 are synchronized in their agreement that it has become impossible for government alone to continue to fund sports within and outside the school system.

Akarah (2010) in the above regard stated that the Nigeria government should hand off the funding and administration of the sports sector and play supervisory roles by establishing and implementing the policies which will govern the organization of sports while allowing corporate, private organizations and individuals to invest in the sports sector. Oshilim (2011) observed that the government at the state level takes the sole responsibility of funding and sponsoring sports at the Grassroots. He further noted that the ministry of education is vested with the responsibility of organizing all sporting activities at the Grassroots. In order to attain the objective of the National Sports Festival, support from extraneous sources for the growth and development of sports must be sought since; sports development at all level is capital intensive. Consequently, adequate funding or sponsorship is crucial to its development. Funds must be generated and sponsorship sought to carter for the needs of sports which include equipment, construction of facilities and their maintenance as well as recruitment of sports personnel.

It is palpable to state that; government alone cannot fund and sponsor all sporting activities at all times. This calls for public and private partnership. The situation in Delta and Ondo state is so bad that even both National sporting

federations and state sports associations are unable to put together one local competition in a year and cannot dare to monitor locally, the activities of athletes for fear of exhausting the monthly allocation, which is usually used to run the secretariat.

The success of Delta State sports performance and the weak sports performance of Ondo State as recorded in the medals table of previous competitions cannot be commensurate with the number of funds put into sports as this makes one wonder if the objectives of the National Sports Festival are being attained. From this understanding, Akarah (2007) submitted that the best means of obtaining extraneous funding and sponsorship is for the government to

- Undertake fundraising activities to enhance the financing of Grassroots sports.
- Seek greater financial support for sporting activities from the private sector.
- Encourage the private sector and state sporting bodies to develop collaborative relationship towards funding and sponsorship of sports programmes.
- Offer incentives that would encourage financial assistance from the private sector for Grassroots sports.
- Make the private sector to contribute to the development of Grassroots sports as a way of social responsibilities to their host communities.
- Encourage the private sector to contribute to the development of sports by identifying with specific sports associations in funding or sponsorship with a view to developing that sport.

According to Diejomaoh (2011) the signing of the contracts agreement between the Nigeria Football League (NFL) and Globacom for the sponsor of the 2006/2007 and 2008/2009 premier soccer league season to the tune of seven hundred million naira (N700m) was a clear indication that the funding and sponsorship of sports development should no longer be the business of the government alone. Boye and Oriabure (2008) quoting Ojeme (1999) stated that funding is an integral part of facilities and equipment development, hence, any state that is desirous of attaining the objectives of the National Sports Festival ought to provide funds to cater for facility development. According to Osaretin (2002), Ondo state is one of the states that is not an apostle of the win at all cost and that they have never poached. Omolawon (2000) citing Butcher (1984) stressed that apart from making sure that policies for the raising and spending of money must be well reasoned out, persons responsible should know the procedure for handling such funds which include; integrity, basic purpose for which the programme exists, the laws, the codes and regulations concerning financial management.

Most of the government-owned schools in Delta and Ondo States lack sports facilities and equipment, while the schools that have facilities have them in dilapidated states because of lack of maintenance. Instead of spending so much on rewarding few star athletes, the funds should be adequately utilized by constructing sports facilities to encourage mass participation in sports and breed new talents rather than use participation as an avenue for the states to show off their wealth. Consistently, the demands for the fund has become a perennial problem of leaders associated with sports especially in times of dwindling fortunes and decaying facilities and infrastructure in sports.

Nwankwo (2001) stated that funding is the greatest problem confronting sports development and the attainment of the National Sports Festival's objective in Delta and Ondo states. Efforts should be made to totally fund one or two championships for each sports association in a year. She further opined that our preparation to local competitions, National competitions, National sports festival, All African games, commonwealth games, Olympic Games, National Cup and the

World cup have always been marred due to lack of funds which when eventually released would be so late that, the funds could hardly have any meaningful impact on the preparation of the athletes.

Awoma (2011) quoting Ekanem (1992) opined that sports programmes have always been made to suffer as a result of lack of funds or poor financial management. Basic sports facilities are still lacking in most schools and local government areas in Delta and Ondo states. The few available ones have been out of use due to lack of proper and timely maintenance. Our stars are drifting to foreign lands in search of greener pastures. After all, there are no modern and scientific training facilities, for them here. Without adequate finance, athletes, coaches, and administrators will always be poorly rewarded or not rewarded.

Okenla (2001) is of the view that funding of sports in Delta and Ondo states are the major constraints to the attainment of the objectives of the National Sports Festival. He asserts that availability and effective utilization of funds is the bedrock of successful formulation and implementation of the National Sports Festival objectives and sports development in the states. The National sports policy (2009) recognized funding and sponsorship as vital requirements for sports development at all levels. It noted that the relatively high costs associated with the funding of sports programmes, camping, training, and competitions continue to hinder its rapid development. Awosika (2000) asserted that facilities which afford students the opportunity to practice skills, participate in activities which have far-reaching values should be provided for students' sports programmes and that these facilities and equipment should be available all the year round.

## **JUSTIFICATION FOR THE STUDY**

The National Sports Festival is a developmental programme aimed at discovering hidden talents and budding athletes that would be groomed to represent the country at international sports festivals. The Federal Republic of Nigeria report on Vision 2010 (1997) acknowledges that sports play a significant role in the sustenance of good health, development of competitive spirit, entertainment for the public, promotion of social harmony and national unity, enhancement of international respect and prestige as well as the inculcation of discipline and team spirit in the youth. The report also notes that the provision of facilities is often inadequate and, this affects training resulting in less than satisfactory performances in international sporting competitions. It further notes that, even where the facilities are available, they are poorly maintained thereby denying many athletes the opportunity to fully actualize their potentials. The Federal Government reports on Vision 2010 (1997) and Vision 20:2020 (2009) identified the need for grassroots sports and the provision of sports facilities in communities, primary and secondary schools as well as tertiary institutions. Delta and Ondo States participate in the National Sports Festivals where Delta State has won in most festivals while Ondo State has won in only one festival which was organized in Lagos State in 1989. This study, therefore, assesses the extent to which the National Sports Festivals objectives and processes have been attained in Delta and Ondo States.

**Table 1: Table Showing States' Performances at the National Sports Festival Since Inception**

Year	Host	Winners
1973	Lagos	Midwest
1975	Lagos	Midwest
1977	Kaduna	Bendel
1979	Oyo	Bendel
1981	Bendel	Bendel
1985	Kwara	Bendel
1988	Rivers	Bendel
1989	Lagos	Ondo

Table 1: Contd.,		
1991	Bauchi	Zone11(Bendel, Rivers and Ondo)
1996	Kogi	Lagos
1998	Imo	Lagos
2000	Bauchi	Delta
2002	Edo	Edo
2004	Fct(Abuja)	Delta
2006	Ogun	Delta
2009	Kaduna	Delta
2011	Port-Harcourt	Rivers
2012	Ondo	Delta

SOURCE: *Free Encyclopedia. 2016 Retrieved December 14<sup>th</sup> 2016.*

## RESEARCH METHODS

The descriptive survey research design is used for the study with a population of one thousand, one hundred and eighteen (1,118) comprised of coaches, teachers, athletes and organizing secretaries in Delta and Ondo States from which a sample size of two hundred and eighty-five (285) was obtained through the stratified random sampling technique. A forty five (45) item self structured questionnaire scaled on a modified four (4) point Likert type rating of Very High (VH 4), High (H 3), Low (L 2) and Very Low (VL 1) with a reliability index (r) of 0.75 established with the Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Co-efficient and which face and content validity were ascertained by three experts in the Human Kinetics and Health Education Department of the Delta State University, Abraka was used to generate data. The hypothesis was tested using multiple regression statistics at the 0.05 alpha level.

## HYPOTHESIS

There will be no significant relationship between the funding of sports and the attainment of the National Sports Festival objectives in Delta and Ondo States.

Regression analysis of funding of sports and the attainment of the National Sports Festival objectives.

Table 2

Model	R		R <sup>2</sup>	R <sup>2</sup> Adjusted	Std Error of the Estimate	
	0.041		0.04	0.04	1.02054	
ANOVA						
	df		ss	ms	F	sig
Regression	1		0.670	0.670	0.619	0.432
Residual	283		306.579	1.083		
	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficient		Sig	
	β	SEB	β	T		
Constant Sports funding	17.622	0.642	0.202	27.468	0.000	
	0.009	0.029		3.465	0.001	

Note:

*B = Regression Coefficient*

*S.E.B = Standard Error of B*

The results in the table showed the regression output between funding of sports and the attainment of the National Sports Festival objectives with an F-ratio of 0.619 with a P-value of 0.432 being greater than the alpha level of 0.05 and R<sup>2</sup> value accounting for 4% variance in National Sports Festival objectives. The null hypothesis was therefore rejected. This means that there is a significant relationship between funding and the National Sports Festival objectives.

The unstandardized coefficient  $\beta$  for the relationship between the National Sports Festival objectives and funding sports was 0.009 with a standardized coefficient  $\beta$  of 0.202 and a t-value of 3.465. Therefore, funding of sports was significant at the alpha level of 0.05.

## **DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS**

The results of the study revealed that there is a significant relationship between the funding of sports and the attainment of the National Sports Festival objectives. This finding is in line with the views of Akarah (2007) who opined that sports development and attainment of set policies go hand in hand with funding of sports. The finding also supports the views of Tayire (2012) who elucidated that the sufficiency or insufficiency of funds will to a very large extent determine the degree of success and development of any sports policy. The finding is also in line with Awoma (2005), who noted that funding of sports associations has dwindled over the years hence the poor performance of athletes and teams in international and global competitions. The finding of the study is also in line with the views of Morakinyo & Aluko (2009), who asserted that funding of sports in Nigeria principally lies in the hands of the government and that, the much-needed funds which do not come forth have affected the attainment of the National Sports Festivals objectives.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The records in the medals table of previously organized National Sports Festivals show a marked difference in the performances of Delta and Ondo States. While Delta State had won in several editions of the competition, Ondo State had won only in one of the editions organized in Lagos State in 1989. Despite the fact that Delta State has more sporting facilities than Ondo State, many of them are in conditions of disrepair while the conditions with sporting activities, sports facilities and equipment are same since they receive inadequate funding which undoubtedly, have resulted in low mass participation in sports as well as in recreational activities.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Governments of Delta and Ondo States should through proper funding, create avenues for participation in grassroots sports so as to ensure that talented and budding athletes are identified and trained to represent the States, whilst the Ministry of Sports and school administrators should expend the funds provided by government for procuring necessary sports materials needed for training and re-training of athletes to facilitate their participation in the National Sports Festival towards the attainment of the sports festival objectives. The public-private partnership scheme should be adopted by the governments as a way of shoring up funds for sports development in the states.

## **REFERENCES**

1. Akarah, E.O. (2007): *Psycho-social and Economic Factors as Predictors of Effective Sports Marketing in Nigeria*. Unpublished Ph.D Thesis, Delta State, University Abraka.
2. Akarah, E. O. (2010). *Economic environment as a predictor of effective sport marketing in Nigeria*. *Annals of Modern Education*. Japan, Universal Academic Services. ISSN 2141-1263, 2(1) 165-172.
3. Aluko, E.O (2005). *Management factors as realities of sport development in, selected sports federation of the federal ministry of sports of social development in Nigeria*. Unpublished Ph.D. Thesis of the Department of Kinetics and Health Education, University of Ibadan.

4. Awoma, C.I (2011). *Management variables as predictions of sports development in Edo state, Nigeria*. Unpublished Ph.D Thesis of the Department of Physical and Health Education, Delta state University, Abraka.
5. Awosika, Y. (2000) *National Sports Festival. 21st century and sports development in Nigeria*. Abuja, Federal Ministry of Sports and Social Development. 55-63. Black, law Dictionary.
6. Boye, E.T.S & Oriabure, A. (2008): *Achieving vision 2020 for Sports Developments. A Must for facilities and equipment upgrade in Nigeria schools. Proceedings of the 38th and 39th Conference of the Nigeria Association of the Physical, Health Education Recreation, Sports and Dance, "NAPHER.SD."* YOMLEKS Publishers Ltd. 54-56.
7. Butcher C.A & Krotee, M.L. (2002). *Management and sports*, New York, McGraw Hills publisher.
8. Diejomoah, S.O.E. (2011). *Sports development in the Local Government Council Areas of Delta State from 1991 to 2006*. Unpublished Ph.D Dissertation, Delta State University, Abraka.
9. Fasan, C.O. (1997). *The Management of Sports facilities in Nigeria. Implication for sports administrator and physical education in Fasan C.O (Ed) vol. 1* pp 52-60. Ondo Journal of Physical, Health and Recreation.
10. Federal Republic of Nigeria (1997) *vision 2010 Report of the 2010 committee. Main Report*
11. Federal Republic of Nigeria (2009): *National Sports Policy*. Abuja: Yalian Press Limited.
12. Federal Republic of Nigeria (2009). *Nigeria vision 20:2020. Economic Transformation Blueprint*.
13. Gerrald, B. (2004) *Sports Finance in Beech, J, & Chadwick, S – (eds) The Business of Sports Management. London: Prentice Hall, 154 – 190*
14. Kassem, T. (2009). *Formalizing the Informal Economy: a Required State Regulatory and Institutional Approach Egypt as a Case Study*. Population, 2010(2011), 2012.
15. Morakinyo, E.O. (2000). *Sports Management structure 21st century and Sort Developments in Nigeria*. Abuja, Federal Ministry of Sports and Social Developments.
16. Nwankwo, E.I. (2001): *The way forward for sports Development in Nigeria. Report of the National Committee on problems of sports Development in Nigeria*) 13,142-146.
17. Ojeme, E.O (1999), *Ensuring the Availability of Standard Sports Facilities and Equipment for the challenges of sports development in the next millennium. Seminar Compilation on Sports Development in Nigeria in the Millennium*.
18. Okenla, F. (2001). *Problems of Sports Development in Nigeria. Report of the National Committee on problems of Sports Development in Nigeria. (3)* 530 – 535
19. Omalawon, K.O. (2006). *"Parameters influencing the propagation of physical Education and sports programs in Nigeria schools". Proceedings of the 1st ICHPE-SD African Regional Conference.16-20th October sterling-horden Nigeria Ltd. 37-40.*
20. Omoruan, J.C & Eboh L. O. (2015). *A Handbook on Physical Education, Sports and Recreation*. Benin City: S. Asekome and CO.
21. Osaretin E. (2012) *National Sports Festival: 39 years after – Vanguard News, 18 Nov. 2012*
22. Tayire, F.O (2012) *"Appraisal of the implementation of the National Sports Policy in the secondary schools in South-South Nigeria, Unpublished PhD Thesis presented to the Faculty of Education, Delta State University Abraka"*.
23. Udomiaye, M. (2013): *Service input and output as Predictors of School Sports Development at the Grassroots in Edo state. Unpublished Ph.D Thesis presented to the Faculty of Education, Delta state University, Abraka.*